

RADIO STAMPS
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Prepared for the
"DX Partyline" Program
of Radio Station HCJB, Quito, Ecuador

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Hello again, and welcome to the July edition of **Radio Stamps**. This is program 24, and the subject today is looking after your radio stamps collection.

It's great to be back on the first Saturday of the month, here on the DX Partyline program of HCJB. You're tuned today to the monthly feature that's all about the fun of collecting stamps on the topic of radio. This program combines the fun of listening to international radio, and collecting stamps from around the world all about radio.

On today's program I have some tips for you about starting and looking after a radio stamps collection. Over the years, I've met or corresponded with many people, from around the world, who collect stamps on the topic of radio. It wasn't really a surprise to learn that many radio listeners are also stamp collectors. Collecting radio stamps is another great way to enjoy the radio hobby.

Collecting stamps based on the subject of the design, rather than the country of origin, is known as topical collecting. I started by collecting a few stamps that featured the major international radio stations I first found on shortwave, like Radio Canada International and HCJB. When I later discovered amateur radio communications, I decided to add ham stamps to my collection. When I learned to recognize marine, aviation and military radio traffic, I was convinced that my collection of radio stamps should include utility radio too.

My topical stamp collecting interests have grown to include most aspects of radio. These include postage stamps, meter stamps and postal cancellations that commemorate, or include in their design, radio stations, radio listening, inventors, amateur radio, and so on.

The scope of my collection may not be of interest to another radio stamp collector. To others, for example, my collection may be far too broad in its scope, or even too narrow because it doesn't include space communications. Some collectors only want to collect mint or unused postage stamps, others specialize in meter stamps or first day covers. There are as many topical

collections as there are topical collectors. No two radio stamp collections will ever be the same. The nature and scope of your collection is entirely up to you and your collecting interests.

You'll soon discover that your collection needs to be carefully looked after. Stamp tongs are essential for handling your collection. Learn to use them to avoid damage to your stamps. Like many stamp collectors, I keep my collection in a stock book until I'm ready to mount them on a page. I keep my covers and postcards in a shoe box. When I'm making a page for my album, I use 20 pound bond paper, with a 25% rag content. Some collectors use a heavier paper. For my stamps, I use a plastic mounts with a black background. Covers and postcards are mounted with clear, self-adhesive, photo corners. Both types of mounts are available from stamp dealers. The text for each page can be typed printed. Each page is roughed out first, then finalized when the text is determined. The text is typed or printed first, then the mounts are added. Your finished page is a great way to protect your collection and show others all about the story of radio on stamps. If I can help you, please write with a self-addressed envelope and return postage or 2 international reply coupons. I'll give you my address at the end of this feature.

I'm sure you'll agree that the audio quality of the **Radio Stamps** program has greatly improved over the past two months. The program is now recorded at Lakeside Studios at Clayton Lake near Almonte. With me again today at the controls is Randall Prescott, better known for his award this year here in Canada as producer of the year. A special thanks again to Randall Prescott at Lakeside Studios for the great new sound of the **Radio Stamps** program.

The **Radio Stamps** program is sponsored this year by the North American Shortwave Association. The club is underwriting the mailing costs of this volunteer program on HCJB. The North American Shortwave Association has membership across Canada and the United States, and around the world. The club produces the monthly Journal, and a sample copy is available for only \$2. If you'd like to write to the club, here's the address: North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, spelled L-e-v-i-t-t-o-w-n, in Pennsylvania, or PA for short. The zip code in the United States is 19507. The address again is the North American Shortwave Association, 45 Wildflower Road, Levittown, PA, 19507, U.S.A.

That's all for today. As promised, here's my mailing address. Neil Carleton, that's spelled N-e-i-l C-a-r-l-e-t-o-n, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, spelled A-l-m-o-n-t-e, Ontario, spelled O-n-t-a-r-i-o. The postal code here in Canada is KOA 1A0. The address again is Neil Carleton, P.O. Box 1644, Almonte, Ontario, KOA 1A0, Canada.

Until the next time, best wishes for good listening and collecting.